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The Relationship of Age and Other Factors to Enrollment and Continuation in 4-H Club Work

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TO ENROLLMENT AND CONTINUATION IN 4-H CLUB WORK

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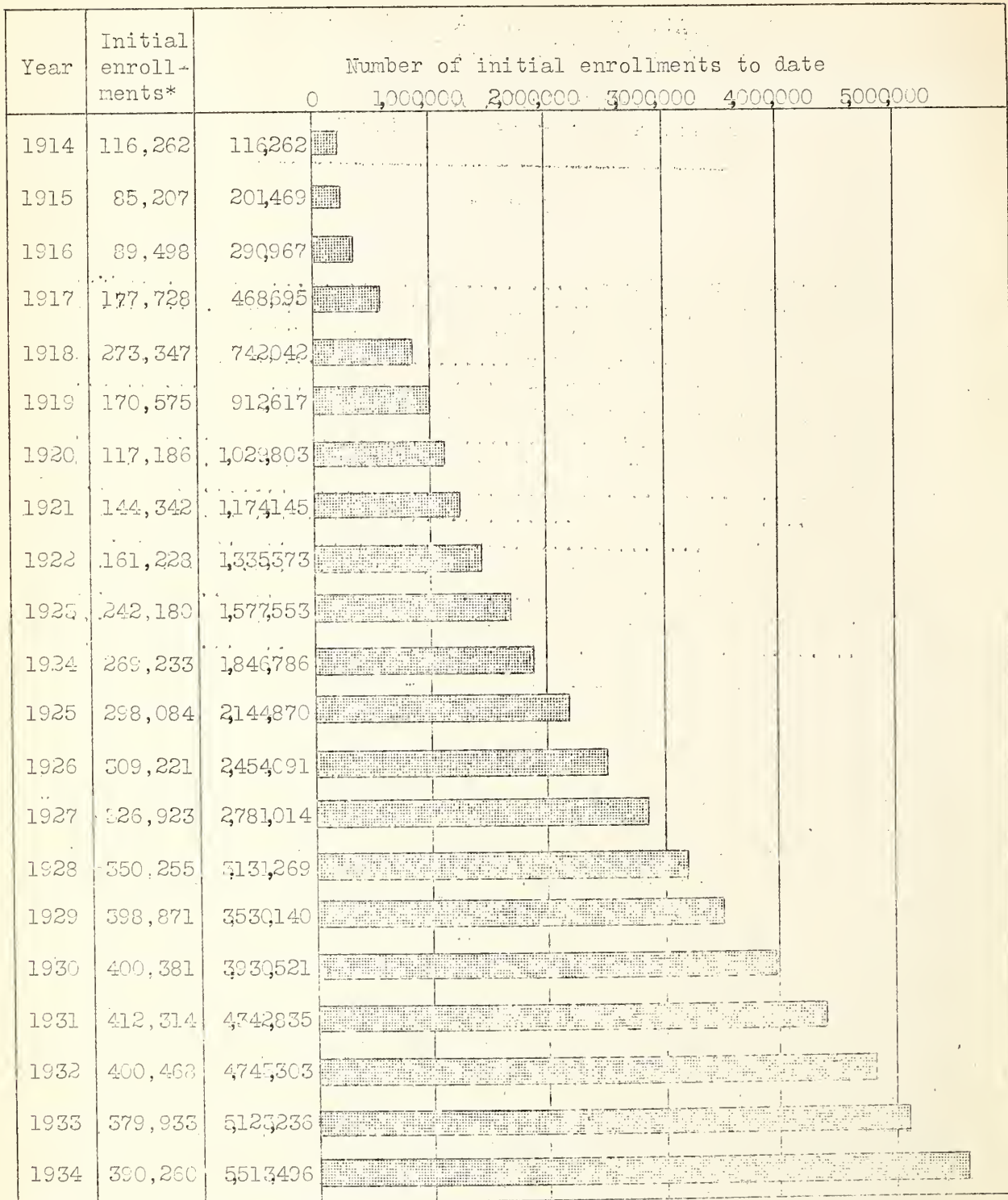
Volume of 4-H Club Work 1914-34

Five and one half million boys and girls have been members of 4-H clubs since the passage of the Smith-Lever Act in 1914 (fig. 1). The enrollment the first year, including any renewals from club work organized previously, was 116,262. The slightly smaller number of initial enrollments for the two succeeding years was followed by the greatly increased enrollment during the war years. After the inflation of that time a steady growth from year to year was maintained through 1931, when the number of first-year enrollments reached 412,314. A decrease is seen in the 3 following years, although 1934 shows a slight turn upward. The total number of boys and girls enrolled each year, including renewals from previous years, is given in figure 2. The stimulus to club membership during the years 1917-19 due to the war-production program is even more clearly reflected in total enrollment than in initial enrollment. This shows an increased proportion of renewals in membership also at that time. The total number of boys and girls enrolled at the peak in 1932 (925,612) was nearly 8 times as great as the number enrolled in 1914. Time devoted to the agricultural-adjustment program by extension agents is thought to be largely responsible for the reduction in membership in 1933 and 1934.

DISTRIBUTION: A copy of this circular has been sent to each State extension director, State club leader, agricultural-college library, and experiment-station library.

*This circular is a revision of circular 183, which it supersedes.

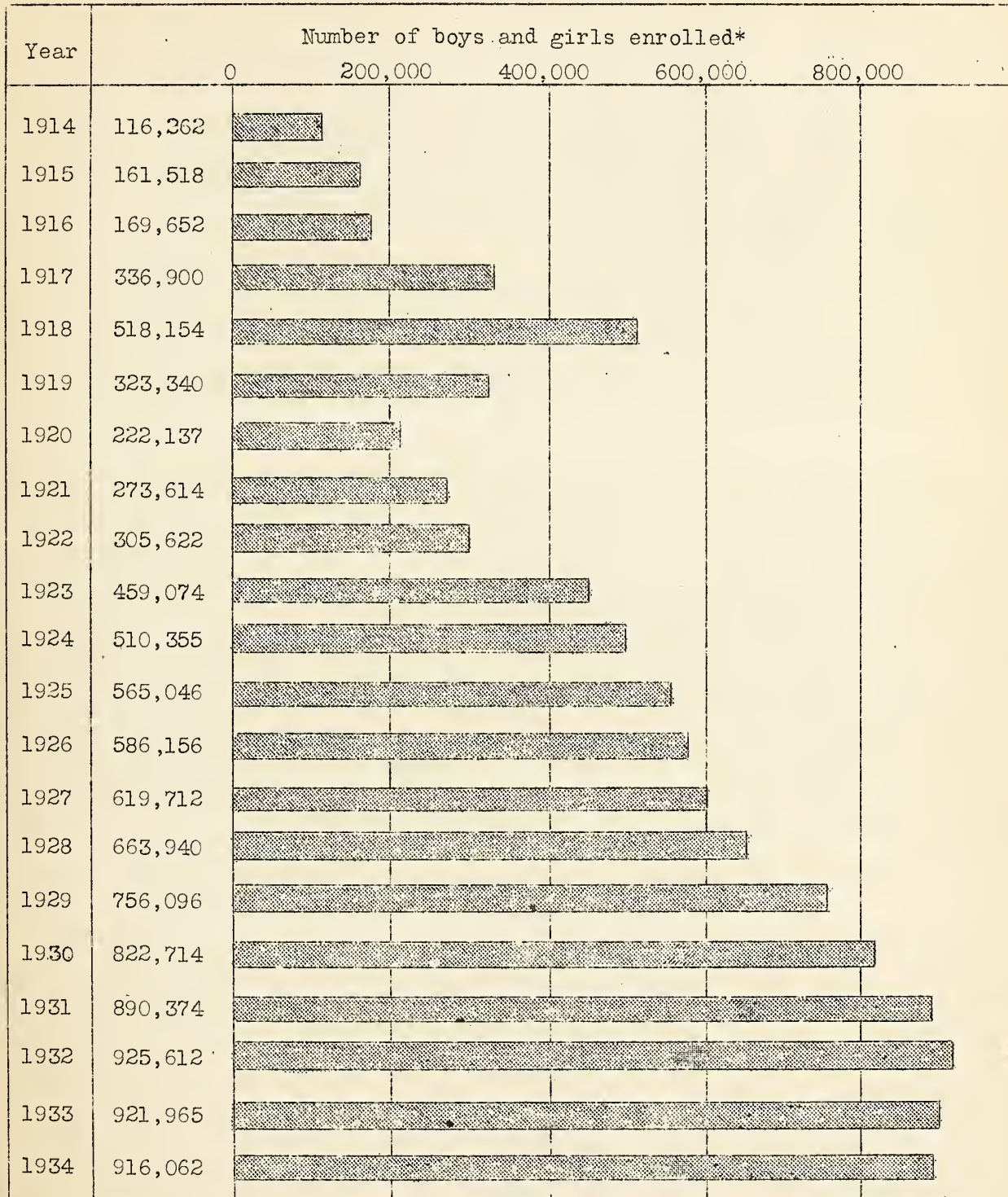
Figure 1.--Total number of boys and girls ever enrolled in 4-H club work,
1914-34



*Number of initial enrollments, 1914-29 = $\frac{\text{(Total yearly enrollment of boys and girls)}}{1.89559 \text{ (average years in work)}}$

Initial enrollments 1930-34 were reported by county extension agents. The number of years in club work was not reported for total membership in all cases. Figures shown have been prorated on the basis of total enrollment.
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Figure 2.--Yearly enrollment of boys and girls in 4-H club work 1914-34
including both renewals and initial enrollments



*Project enrollment only was reported by county extension agents for 1914-22. The ratio of projects started to number of boys and girls enrolled 1923-31 is 1.9663439. The number of boys and girls enrolled 1914-22 is computed on basis of: (Project enrollment years 1914-22)

1.9663439

Since 1923 field studies have been made to determine the effectiveness of the extension system. In this connection a large volume of data pertaining to 4-H club work has been obtained. Certain of these data, collected between 1923 and 1931, which concern enrollment and continuation in club work are considered in this circular. Statistics from the annual reports of county extension agents are also incorporated.

Age of 4-H Club Members; Percentage in Different Age Groups

Fifteen percent each of the 823 boys and 854 girls enrolled in 4-H clubs in the areas where the field studies were made were 12 years of age. This was the highest enrollment at any age for both boys and girls, although the proportion of members at the ages of 13 and 14 was nearly as high in both cases (fig. 3). Forty-three percent of all boys enrolled and 44 percent of all girls enrolled were from 12 to 14 years of age. Nearly one-fifth of the boys and over one-fifth of the girls were less than 12 years old. Over one-fifth each of the boys and girls were at the ages of 15 and 16. Seventeen percent of the boys and 13 percent of the girls were over 16 years of age. The number of boys and girls in the different age groups was practically the same, except that a slightly higher percentage of girls were in the younger age groups than was true of the boys.

Each year since 1930 the county extension agents have reported the age of the club members enrolled. A comparison of these figures with those obtained in the extension studies shows practically the same distribution in the various age groups (table 1). However, a slightly higher proportion of the club members enrolled from 1930 to 1934 were in the lower age groups than was true of the representative groups from which information was obtained in the field studies over a period of years from 1923 to 1931. This seems to indicate a tendency toward club members of a younger age although the actual difference in average age for the groups considered is not great. Both sources of information show the average age of both boy and girl club members to be between 13 and 14 years. The close comparison of these data from the two sources seems to indicate that the relatively small sample of information considered in the field studies is large enough to present the situation as accurately as is the vastly greater number of instances reported by the county extension agents.

Percentage of Boys and Girls in the Various Club Age Groups Who Have Been Enrolled in 4-H Club Work

Out of nearly 8,000 boys and girls on the farms visited who were between the ages of 10 and 20 at the time the extension field studies were made, one-fourth either were enrolled in 4-H clubs at that time or had been enrolled at an earlier age (fig. 4). Twelve percent were club members at the time of interview. A higher percentage of the boys and girls who were at the age of 14 had been reached at some time by club work than of those at any other age. The high point for those enrolled at the time of the interview was also held by those at the age of 14. With the exception of the boys and girls at the age of 10, of which number only 11 percent had been enrolled in club work, not less than 18 percent in any age group had been in club work at some time. Six out of the 11 age groups, 12 to 17 inclusive, each totaled more than 25 percent of their number in club work.

Note: Throughout this report the age at the last birthday was used.

Figure 3.--Distribution in the different age groups of club members who were enrolled at the time extension studies were made; 823 boys, 854 girls; 19 areas

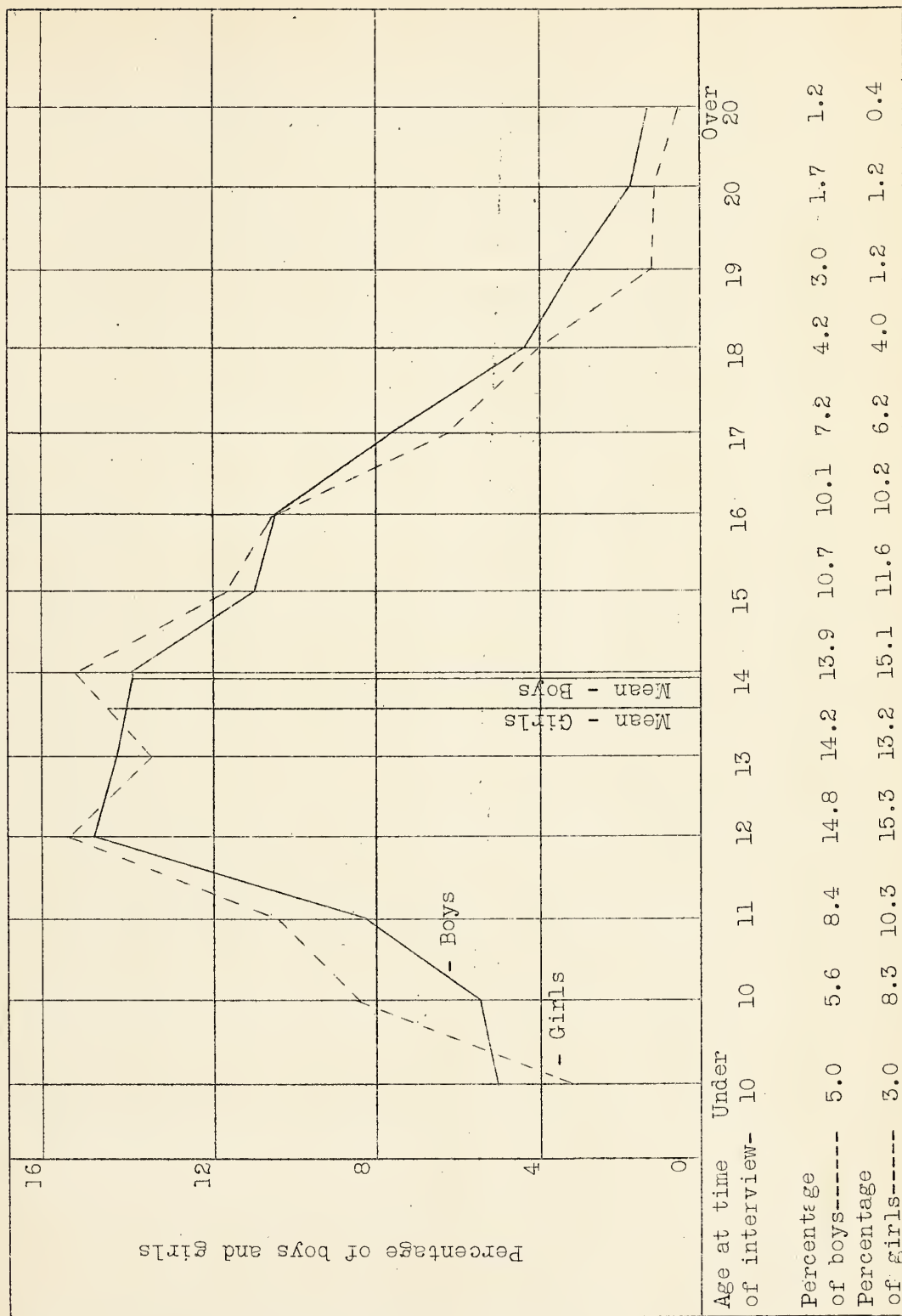


Table 1.--Age of club members enrolled at the time studies were made compared with age of club members enrolled, 1930 to 1934, as reported by county extension agents

Number of boys and girls	Age of 4-H club members and percentage of boys and girls in each group												Average age
	Age												
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		
Field studies													
Members enrolled in areas where studies were made: Boys - 823	10.6 ^b	8.4	14.8	14.2	13.9	10.7	10.1	7.2	4.2	3.0	2.9 ^c	13.9	
Girls - 854	11.4 ^b	10.3	15.3	13.2	15.1	11.6	10.2	6.2	4.0	1.2	1.5 ^c	13.6	
Annual reports co. ext. agents													
Members enrolled, by years:													
1930 ^d	11.3	12.0	14.8	14.8	14.6	11.7	9.0	5.8	3.4	1.7	0.9	13.5	
	12.9	13.1	16.6	15.4	14.1	10.8	7.9	4.8	2.6	1.2	0.6	13.2	
1931 ^d	11.2	11.7	14.6	14.6	14.1	11.7	9.0	6.2	3.9	2.0	1.0	13.6	
	13.1	13.2	16.4	15.1	13.4	11.1	7.9	4.9	2.8	1.3	0.8	13.2	
1932 ^d	10.9	11.7	14.1	14.3	14.0	11.4	9.3	6.5	4.2	2.4	1.2	13.6	
	13.2	13.6	15.6	14.9	13.3	10.5	8.0	5.2	3.1	1.6	1.0	13.3	
1933 ^d	10.6	11.9	14.3	14.2	13.6	11.4	9.0	6.5	4.4	2.6	1.5	13.6	
	12.8	13.8	15.9	14.8	13.1	10.4	7.8	5.2	3.3	1.8	1.1	13.3	
1934 ^d	10.4	11.6	14.6	14.7	13.6	11.3	9.0	6.3	4.3	2.6	1.6	13.7	
	12.5	13.4	16.0	15.4	13.5	10.4	7.7	5.0	3.1	1.8	1.2	13.3	

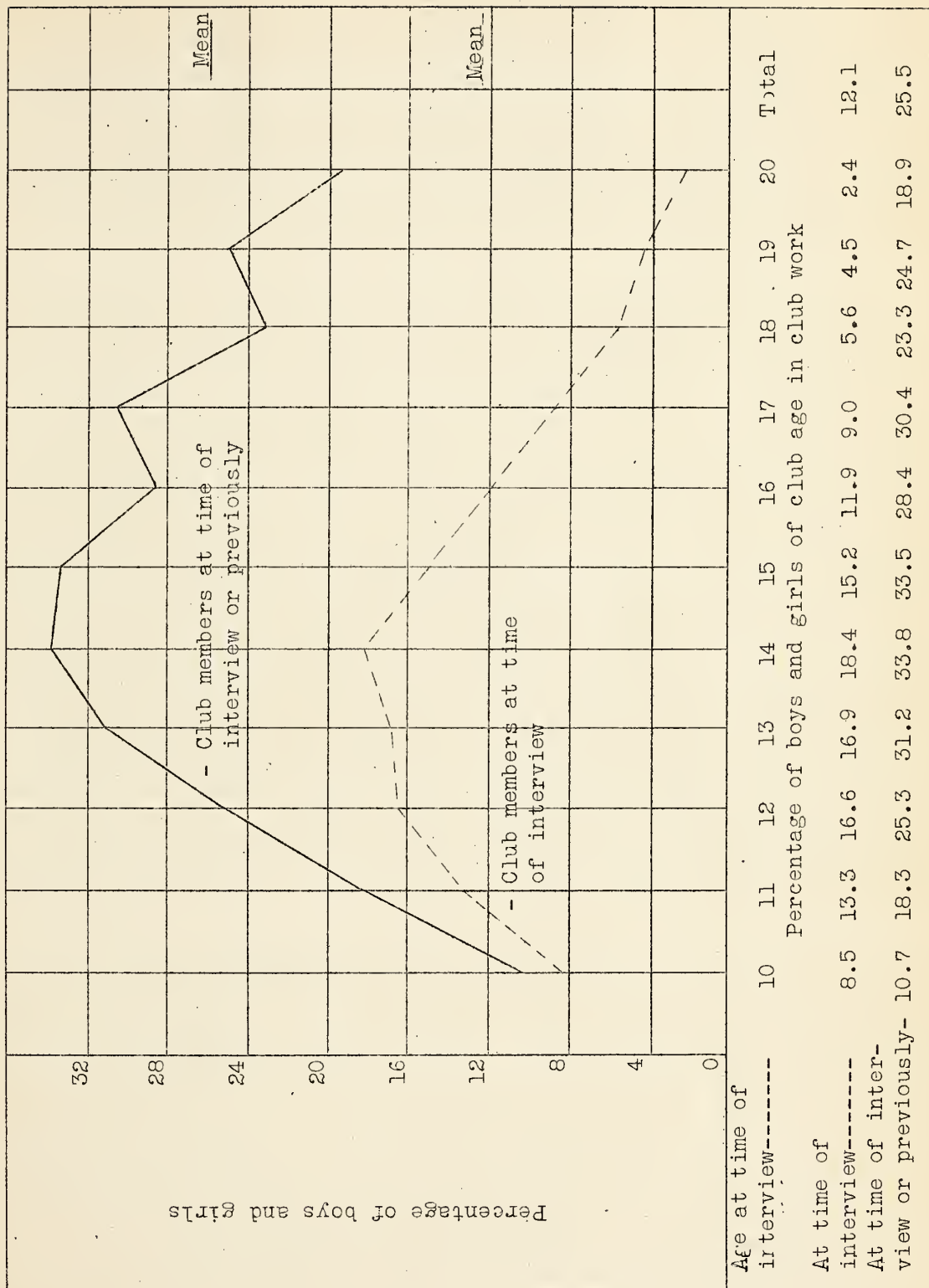
a.--Throughout this study the age at the last birthday was used.

b.--Members under 10 are included.

c.--Members over 20 are included.

d.--Only that part of enrollment for which age was reported is included.

Figure 4.--Percentage of boys and girls of club age in the different age groups who were members of 4-H clubs at the time the field studies were made or previously 7894 boys and girls 10 to 20 years of age; 11 areas



Age at Which Boys and Girls Enter 4-H Club Work

More girls entered club work at the age of 11 than at any other time (fig. 5). The highest enrollment for the boys occurred at the ages of 12, 13, and 14; the percentages were practically the same for each of the 3 years. Each succeeding year after 11 shows a decline in enrollment of girls and each succeeding year after 14 shows a corresponding decline in enrollment of boys. About 40 percent each of the 1,715 boys and 1,619 girls considered in this group entered club work during the 3-year period from 12 to 14. Thirty-seven percent of the girls and 32 percent of the boys entered before 12 years of age and 23 percent of the girls and 28 percent of the boys entered after 14 years of age. The average entrance age was 12.7 for the girls and 13.0 for the boys. The number of boys and girls who were in club work at the time the studies were made was about equal to the number who had been in club work previous to that time.

The average entrance age for boys and girls in each age group who were in club work when the studies were made is given in table 2. The rise in average entrance age for both boys and girls is consistent with the rise in age. The irregularities which appear at the ages of 19, 20, and over 20, are probably due to the relatively small number of members considered in these groups. Entrance ages of members under 10 years of age ranged from 5 to 9 for the boys and from 7 to 9 for the girls. The average was 8 in both cases. Entrance ages for members over 20 ranged from 13 to 26 for the boys, and from 17 to 20 for the girls. The average was 18 in both cases. For the total boys enrolled the average entrance age was 12.5 years, and for the girls 12.4 years. The detailed statement of the distribution of entrance ages for members in each age group shows that the high mark of entrance follows rather closely in each case the age of the members considered. Practically all of the club members in the older age groups entered at an older age and did not continue the membership from a younger age. The percentage of boys and girls in this group who entered club work at the different ages is given by areas in table 3. The average entrance ages for both boys and girls range from 11 to 14 years in the various areas with 12.4 the average for all areas for both boys and girls. The average entrance age of boys and girls was the lowest in the eastern section and the highest in the southern section of the United States, the averages being 11.5 and 13.4, respectively. The average entrance age for the western section was 11.8 years and for the central section 12.7 years. Only one area in the western section is included in this comparison, however.

A comparison of the average entrance age of boys and girls who were in club work when the studies were made with the average entrance age of those whose membership had been discontinued at that time, shows that the boys in the former-member group were 0.9 of a year older and that the girls were 0.6 of a year older on the average when they entered club work than those who were enrolled at the time of the interview (tables 2 and 4). This may be further indication of a trend toward club members of a younger age suggested in table 1. A comparison of the average entrance ages of club members in the two groups by individual areas and by sections of the country also shows this trend to be true (tables 3 and 5). The average entrance ages of former members by sections of the country were: East, 12.7; West, 13.0; Central, 13.5; and South, 14.1. Only one area in the western section is included in this comparison. The sections hold the same relative position as to entrance age in both groups.

Figure 5.--Age at which boys and girls enter 4-H club work 1,715 boys, 1,619 girls; 19 areas

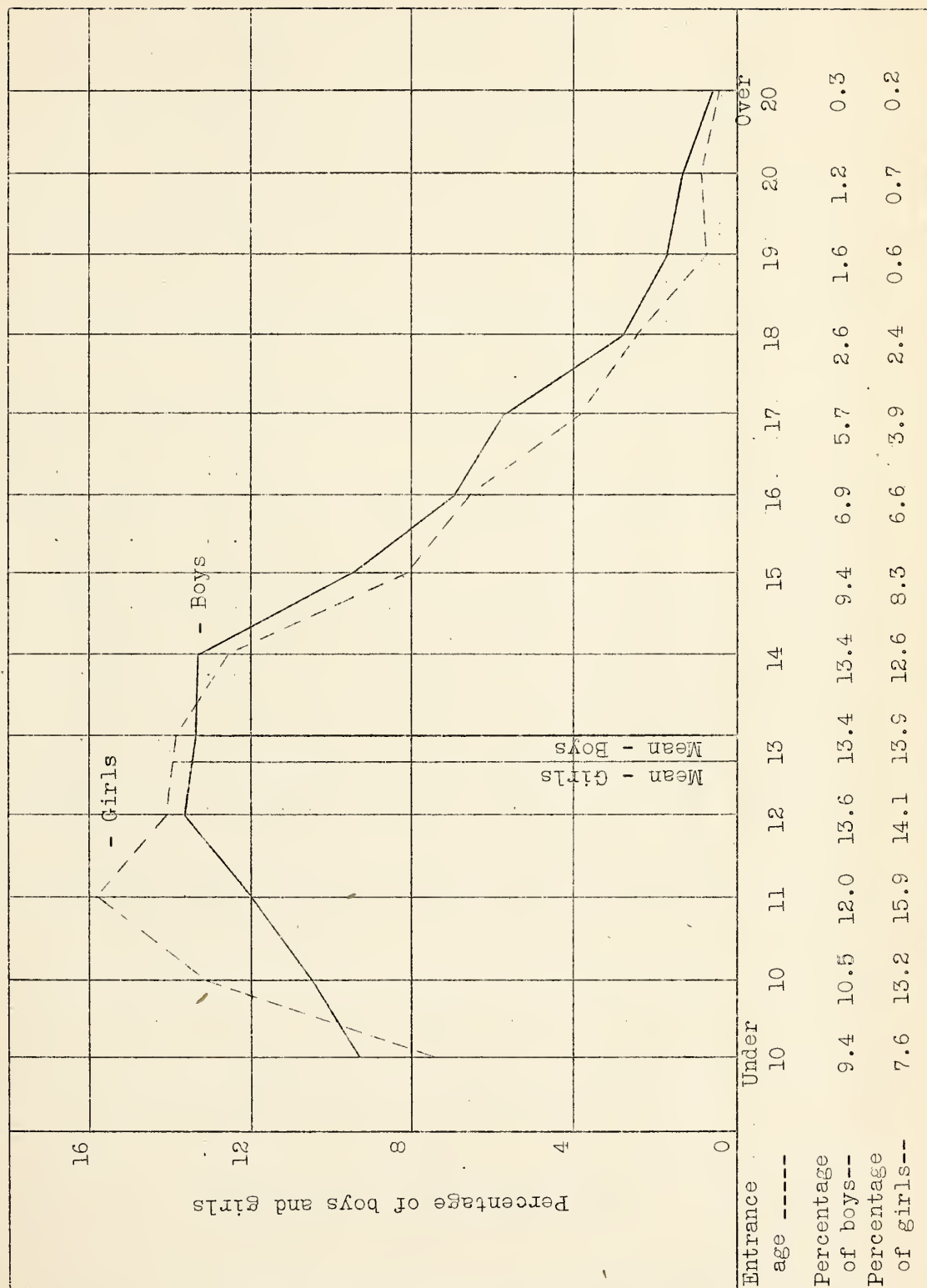


Table 2.--Entrance age of boys and girls who were enrolled in 4-H club work at time of interview
by age at time of interview - 823 boys, 854 girls; - 19 areas

Age at time of interview	Boys and girls		Number of areas	Entrance age and percentage of boys and girls in each group													Average entrance age	
	Number	Per- cent- age		Entrance age														
				Under 10	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	Over 20		
Under 10	Boys....41 Girls...26	5.0 3.0	9 9	100 100														8.0 8.4
10	Boys....46 Girls...71	5.6 8.3	15 15	34.8 19.7	65.2 80.3													9.6 9.7
11	Boys....69 Girls...88	3.4 10.3	15 15	13.0 11.4	29.0 23.9	58.0 64.8												10.4 10.5
12	Boys...122 Girls..131	14.8 15.3	18 16	4.1 1.5	25.4 22.9	27.0 32.8	43.4 42.7											11.1 11.2
13	Boys...117 Girls..113	14.2 13.2	17 17	2.6 5.3	11.1 11.5	17.9 23.0	29.9 20.4	38.5 39.8										11.9 11.7
14	Boys...114 Girls..129	13.9 15.1	18 17	5.3 1.6	4.4 5.4	7.9 9.3	18.4 20.2	32.4 31.8	31.6 31.8									12.6 12.7
15	Boys....88 Girls...99	10.7 11.6	17 17	4.5 5.0	6.8 5.0	1.1 4.0	9.1 12.1	18.2 18.1	26.1 24.2	34.1 36.4								13.3 13.6
16	Boys....83 Girls...87	10.1 10.2	19 16	7.2 1.1	1.2 1.1	2.4 1.1	6.0 3.4	14.4 12.6	20.5 31.0	21.7 21.8	26.5 27.6							13.9 14.4
17	Boys....59 Girls...53	7.2 6.2	18 10	1.7 5.7	5.1 3.8	1.9	8.5 3.8	5.7	13.6 13.2	13.6 18.9	22.0 15.1	35.6 32.0						15.2 14.8

18	Boys.... 35	4.2	11	2.8	5.7				14.3	11.4	11.4	5.7	34.3	14.3			15.3
	Girls... 34	4.0	11		5.9		5.9			11.8	17.6	20.6	17.6	20.6			15.6
19	Boys.... 25	3.0	9	4.0						8.0	4.0	8.0	24.0	20.0	32.0		17.1
	Girls... 10	1.2	6		10.0					20.0		20.0	20.0	30.0			15.8
20	Boys.... 14	1.7	8		7.1				7.1	7.1	21.4		14.3	21.4	7.1	14.3	16.4
	Girls... 10	1.2	7							10.0		10.0	20.0	20.0	40.0		18.0
Over	Boys.... 10	1.2	4						10.0		10.0	10.0		30.0	20.0	10.0	18.2
20	Girls... 3	0.4	3										33.3	33.3	33.3		18.3
Grand	Boys.... 823	100	19	11.3	13.6	12.9	15.5	14.2	11.0	7.9	4.9	4.9	5.0	1.9	1.3	.4	12.5
total	Girls... 954	100	18	7.5	16.3	16.9	14.5	13.8	12.4	8.3	4.9	4.9	3.3	1.5		.6	12.4

Table 3.--Entrance age of boys and girls who were enrolled in 4-H club work at the time of interview by areas from which information was obtained - 812 boys, 854 girls, 18 areas

Area	Boys and girls		Entrance age and percentage of boys and girls in each group													Average entrance age
	Number	Per- cent- age	Entrance Age													
			Under 10	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	Over 20	
A	Boys..107	15.2	3.7	4.7	10.3	20.6	16.8	16.8	8.4	2.8	10.3	1.9	2.8	0.9	15.4	
	Girls..95	11.1	2.1	4.2	11.6	15.8	15.8	17.9	14.7	9.5	6.3	1.1		1.1	13.5	
C	Boys...15	1.8	6.7	33.3	20.0		20.0			6.7	6.7				12.0	
	Girls..43	1.0	11.6	25.6	18.6	14.0	9.3	9.3	2.3	4.7	2.3	2.3			11.7	
D	Boys..103	12.7	2.9	8.7	9.7	17.5	16.5	11.6	3.9	3.9	5.8	3.9	1.9		13.3	
	Girls..115	13.5		7.0	14.8	14.8	16.5	13.0	16.5	6.1	7.0	4.3			13.5	
E	Boys.. 21	2.6	9.5	4.8	14.3	23.8	19.0	9.5	19.0	19.0	9.8	7.3			12.6	
	Girls. 41	4.8	4.9	9.8	4.9	4.9	7.3	22.0	19.5	9.8	9.8	7.3			14.0	
F	Boys.. 65	8.0	7.7	24.6	26.2	21.5	7.7	6.2	3.1	3.1					11.4	
	Girls. 95	11.1	11.6	22.1	26.3	13.7	15.8	6.3	4.2						11.3	
G	Boys.. 25	3.1	8.0	20.0	24.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	4.0	4.0			12.4	
	Girls. 11	1.3	18.2	18.2	27.3		9.1	27.3							11.3	
H	Boys.. 73	9.0	26.0	16.4	12.3	4.1	17.8	11.0	6.8	5.5					11.4	
	Girls. 54	6.3	22.2	25.9	18.5	14.8	9.3	5.6	1.9	1.9					10.8	
I	Boys.. 20	2.5		5.0	10.0	15.0	35.0	10.0	25.0						13.1	
	Girls. 14	1.6		7.1	7.1	7.1	28.6		14.3	21.4			14.3		14.5	
J	Boys.. 14	1.7		14.3	21.4	28.6	7.1	7.1	14.3		7.1				12.5	
	Girls. 4	0.5				25.0	25.0	50.0							13.2	

K	Boys.. 46	5.7	13.0	13.0	13.0	13.0	17.4	8.7	4.3	8.7	4.3	4.3	1.4	13.5
	Girls. 69	8.1	18.8	15.9	18.8	14.5	14.5	4.3	5.8	2.9	1.4			15.5
L	Boys.. 69	8.5	17.4	8.7	13.0	7.2	4.3	2.9	4.3	4.3	1.4	1.4		11.0
	Girls. 20	2.4	25.0	10.0		25.0	5.0	5.0						10.8
M	Boys.. 48	5.9	8.3	18.8	16.7	10.4	8.3	10.4	6.2	4.2	4.2	2.1		12.7
	Girls. 53	6.2	15.1	18.9	13.2	11.3	20.8	7.5	3.8	1.9			1.9	12.5
N	Boys.. 22	2.7	4.5	9.1	4.5	31.8	13.6	9.1	13.6	9.1	4.5			14.0
	Girls. 64	7.5	14.1	17.2	18.8	15.6	14.1	10.9	3.1	3.1				12.5
O	Boys.. 36	4.4	16.7	27.8	19.4	16.7	5.6	13.9						12.1
	Girls. 32	3.8	21.9	34.4	12.5	15.6	9.4	3.1	3.1					11.8
P	Boys.. 15	1.8	26.7	6.7	13.3		20.0		13.3	6.7				12.1
	Girls. 17	2.0		5.9	17.6	5.9	11.8	5.9	17.6	17.6	5.9			13.9
R	Boys.. 17	2.1	11.8		29.4	41.2		5.9						12.0
	Girls. 47	5.5	27.7	17.0	19.1	8.5	8.5	4.3	2.1	2.1				11.5
S	Boys.. 50	6.2	16.0	4.0	10.0	14.0	10.0	10.0	4.0	6.0	6.0	4.0	2.0	13.4
	Girls. 14	1.6	21.4	7.1	14.3	14.3	14.3		14.3		7.1			12.6
T	Boys.. 66	8.1	19.7	9.1	19.7	6.1	9.1	4.5	1.5	3.0				10.9
	Girls. 66	7.7	24.2	18.2	16.7	12.1	7.6	4.5	1.5					11.1
Grand total	Boys.. 812	100	13.8	13.0	15.7	14.3	11.2	7.9	4.4	4.6	2.0	1.4	.2	12.4
	Girls. 854	100	16.3	16.9	14.5	13.8	12.4	8.3	4.9	3.3	1.5		.6	12.4

Relationship of Entrance Age to Years of Membership in 4-H Club Work

Former 4-H club members who were enrolled at the earlier ages remained in the work longer than did those who were enrolled at the later ages (table 4). The term of membership for the boys declined steadily as the age of entrance advanced. The same general trend is seen for the girls although the decline is somewhat irregular. The nine boys and girls who were enrolled after the age of 20 were exceptional cases, and the number is too small to be indicative. The boys who entered at 16 or under remained for an average of 1.9 years; those who entered at 17 or over remained for 1.5 years. The girls who entered at 16 or under remained for an average of 2.0 years; those who entered at 17 or over remained for 1.7 years. The average length of membership was 1.9 years for both the boys and girls. A detailed statement of the percentage of boys and girls who remained in the work for the various year periods is given by entrance ages also in table 4.

Up to the age of 14 the rate of enrollments for the boys exceeded the rate of withdrawals. After that age the reverse was true in about the same proportion. The high point of withdrawals occurred at the ages of 15 and 16, with the high point of entrance at 14. For the girls the rate of enrollments exceeded the rate of withdrawals up to the age of 13. This turning point came about a year earlier for the girls than it did for the boys; however, the rate of decline in enrollments for the 3-year period following the peak was not as great as was true for the boys.

Length of 4-H Club Membership

Slightly more than one-half of the 1,657 former club members were enrolled for 1 year only (fig. 6). About one-fourth of the total remained for 2 years. The percentages are slightly higher for the boys than for the girls in the 1-year and 2-year groups. Ten percent of the boys and 15 percent of the girls were enrolled for 3 years. Less than 10 percent of either the boys or girls remained in club work longer than 3 years. The average length of memberships in the four sections of the country varied from 1.4 years in the western section to 2.0 years in the eastern section. The averages in years for the southern and central sections were found to be 1.8 and 1.9, respectively. Only one area in the western section is included in this comparison, however (table 5).

Beginning with 1930, and each year since, county extension agents have reported the length to date of memberships of boys and girls enrolled in club work (table 6). Comparison of these figures reported by county extension agents for memberships not yet discontinued with the figures obtained in the extension studies for length of memberships which had been discontinued shows a great similarity in the percentage distribution of members in the different year groups. It will be noted that there is a slight drop from year to year in the percentages in the 1-year group. This trend is also seen to some extent in the 2-year group. The compensating gain is found in the 3-, 4-, 5-, 6-, and over-6-year groups. When the actual number of years of participation in club work is computed for the boys and girls who discontinued the work during the period 1931-34, further evidence is obtained in support of the trend toward a longer tenure of club membership. The figures reported by the county extension agents show that the average tenure of membership for the boys who dropped out of club work during the 4 years 1931 to 1934 was 2.2, 2.2, 2.4, and 2.5 years respectively. For the girls the averages were 2.0, 2.1, 2.2, and 2.4 years, and for both

Figure 6.--Length of membership of former 4-H club members by year groups --
892 boys, 765 girls, 19 areas

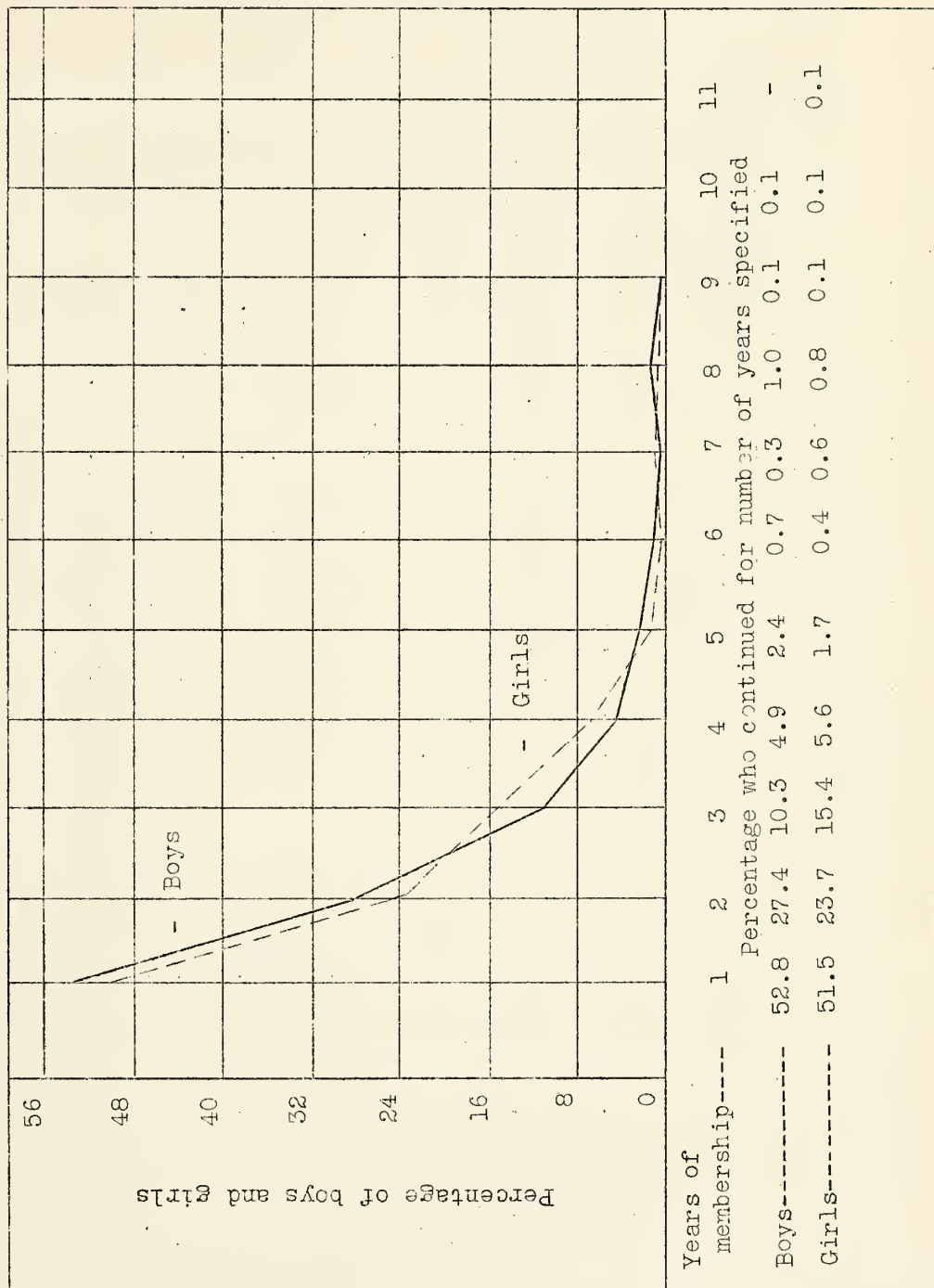


Table 4.--Relationship of age at which boys and girls entered 4-H club work to years of membership --
1,657 former 4-H club members: 892 boys, 765 girls; 19 areas

Age at time of entrance	Boys and girls		Average entrance age	Number of areas	Years of membership and percentage of boys and girls in each group											Average years of membership
	Number	Percent- age			Years of membership											
					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
Under 10	Boys...68	7.6	8.3	16	55.9	14.7	7.4	5.9	4.4	4.4		4.4		1.5		2.4
	Girls...59	7.7	8.4	14	37.3	28.8	15.2	10.2	3.4	1.7	1.7	1.7				2.3
10	Boys...68	7.6	10.0	16	50.0	20.6	8.8	10.3	5.9			4.4				2.2
	Girls...75	9.8	10.0	16	38.7	21.3	21.3	9.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	4.0	1.3		1.3	2.6
11	Boys...100	11.2	11.0	16	46.0	25.0	15.0	7.0	3.0	1.0	1.0	2.0				2.1
	Girls...113	14.8	11.0	15	48.7	26.5	17.7	3.5	2.6	0.9	0.9					1.9
12	Boys...106	11.9	12.0	17	49.0	26.4	17.9	3.8	1.9			0.9				1.9
	Girls...104	13.6	12.0	17	54.8	19.2	13.5	7.7	1.0	1.0		1.9		1.0		2.0
13	Boys...112	12.7	13.0	19	47.8	29.2	13.3	6.2	2.6	0.9	0.9					1.9
	Girls...107	14.0	13.0	17	57.0	19.6	15.0	6.5	0.9		0.9					1.8
14	Boys...139	15.6	14.0	19	50.4	30.9	10.8	3.6	2.9		1.4					1.8
	Girls...98	12.8	14.0	16	49.0	22.4	21.4	4.1	2.0	1.0						1.9
15	Boys...96	10.8	15.0	17	57.3	31.2	4.2	5.2	1.0	1.0						1.6
	Girls...64	8.3	15.0	17	68.8	21.9	6.2	3.1								1.4
16	Boys...79	8.8	16.0	18	60.8	27.8	7.6	2.5	1.3							1.6
	Girls...64	8.4	16.0	16	42.2	35.9	17.2	3.1	1.6							1.8
17	Boys...56	6.3	17.0	16	53.6	41.1	3.6	1.8								1.5
	Girls...55	4.6	17.0	15	65.7	22.8	8.6	2.8								1.5

18	Boys...29 Girls..26	3.2 3.4	18.0 18.0	13 12	69.0 57.7	17.2 19.2	13.8 15.4	3.8 3.8									1.4 1.8
19	Boys...16 Girls..10	1.8 1.3	19.0 19.0	9 6	68.8 50.0	31.2 40.0		10.0									1.3 1.7
20	Boys...17 Girls.. 6	1.9 0.8	20.0 20.0	8 4	70.6 100	23.5		5.9									1.4 1.0
Over 20	Boys... 5 Girls.. 4	0.6 0.5	22.8 21.0	3 3	20.0 25.0	40.0 25.0	20.0 20.0	20.0	25.0								2.4 3.3
Grand total	Boys..892 Girls..765	100 100	13.4 13.0	19 19	52.8 51.5	27.4 23.7	10.3 15.4	4.9 5.6	2.4 1.7	0.7 0.4	0.3 0.6	1.0 0.8	0.1 0.1	0.1 0.1	0.1 0.1		1.9 1.9

Table 5.--Relationship of age at which boys and girls entered 4-H club work to years of membership -
1631 former 4-H club members: 869 boys, 762 girls; 18 areas

Area	Boys and girls		Average entrance age	Years of membership and percentage of boys and girls in each group											Average years of membership
	Number	Per-centage		Years of membership											
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
A	Boys...77	8.8	13.9	67.5	19.5	9.1	3.9								1.5
	Girls..49	6.4	14.3	46.9	24.5	16.3	12.2								1.9
C	Boys...14	1.6	13.3	64.3	21.4	7.1	7.1								1.6
	Girls..22	2.9	12.8	81.8	4.5	13.6									1.3
D	Boys...119	12.7	14.3	53.8	31.9	8.4	2.5	1.7							1.7
	Girls.100	12.1	13.8	49.0	21.0	18.0	7.0	3.0	1.0						2.0
E	Boys.. 24	4.8	13.1	66.7	16.7	8.3	8.3								1.6
	Girls. 25	5.3	15.6	72.0	16.0	12.0									1.4
F	Boys.. 92	10.6	12.4	58.7	29.3	5.4	5.4	1.1							1.6
	Girls.104	13.7	11.8	59.6	27.9	11.5	1.0								1.5
G	Boys.. 51	5.9	15.3	31.4	31.4	11.8	19.6	5.9							2.4
	Girls. 29	3.8	14.0	37.9	34.5	13.8	13.8								2.0
H	Boys..104	12.0	12.8	56.7	25.0	14.4	2.9	1.0							1.7
	Girls.110	14.4	12.4	60.9	24.5	11.8	2.7								1.6
I	Boys.. 12	1.4	13.8	83.3	16.7										1.2
	Girls. 15	2.0	14.4	86.7	6.7	6.7									1.2
J	Boys.. 22	2.5	12.8	50.0	22.7	9.1		18.2							2.1
	Girls. 7	0.9	13.8	42.8	42.8	14.3									1.7
K	Boys.. 59	6.8	13.5	30.5	37.3	25.4		5.1		1.7	1.8				2.2
	Girls. 55	7.2	13.7	34.5	23.6	32.7		3.6		1.8				1.8	2.5

L	Boys.. 91	10.5	14.0	61.5	25.3	9.9	3.3												1.5
	Girls. 26	3.4	12.1	76.9	19.2	3.8													1.3
M	Boys.. 21	2.4	14.6	52.4	33.3	9.5													1.9
	Girls. 20	2.6	14.8	50.0	45.0	5.0									4.8				1.6
N	Boys.. 17	2.0	13.4	76.5	17.6	5.9													1.3
	Girls. 39	5.1	13.5	61.5	28.2	7.7											2.6		1.7
O	Boys.. 63	7.2	12.7	49.2	34.9	9.5	1.6								1.6	1.6			1.9
	Girls. 40	5.3	12.6	42.5	27.5	17.5	7.5	2.5							2.5				2.1
P	Boys.. 5	0.6	12.8	80.0		20.0													1.4
	Girls. 6	0.8	11.3	50.0	33.3										16.7				2.5
R	Boys.. 22	2.5	14.2	36.4	45.4	9.1	4.5	4.5											2.0
	Girls. 15	2.0	12.5	73.3	20.0	6.7													1.3
S	Boys.. 6	0.7	17.0		50.0	33.3	16.7												2.7
	Girls. 8	1.0	15.1		12.5	37.5		37.5							12.5				4.0
T	Boys.. 70	8.0	11.4	28.6	20.0	8.6	15.7	8.6							4.3	1.4	1.4		3.4
	Girls. 52	12.1	11.6	23.2	19.6	22.8	20.6	4.3							1.1	3.3	1.1		3.0
	Boys.. 869	100	13.4	52.1	27.6	10.6	5.1	2.4							0.7	0.3	0.1	0.1	1.9
	Girls. 762	100	13.0	51.3	23.8	15.5	5.6	1.7							0.4	0.6	0.1	0.1	1.9

boys and girls 2.1, 2.1, 2.3, and 2.4 years. The average length of membership for all boys and girls discontinuing club work during the 4-year period was 2.2 years.

These data indicate that the efforts in recent years of State 4-H club supervisors to extend the length of time boys and girls remain in club work have been meeting with success.

Table 6.-- Duration of membership of former 4-H club members from whom information was obtained in field studies compared with that of members enrolled in 1930-34 as reported by county extension agents

Number of boys and girls		Years of membership and percentage of boys and girls in each group					
		1	2	3	4	5	6 and over
<u>Field studies</u>							
Former 4-H members	Boys - 892	52.8	27.4	10.3	4.9	2.4	2.2
	Girls - 765	51.5	23.7	15.4	5.6	1.7	2.1
<u>Annual reports county extension agents</u>							
4-H club members	(Boys - 295,639	47.0	25.9	14.2	7.5	3.3	2.1
in 1930*.....	(Girls - 439,215	49.8	25.0	13.1	7.2	3.1	1.8
4-H club members	(Boys - 329,371	44.7	26.3	14.9	7.7	3.7	2.7
in 1931*.....	(Girls - 497,647	47.4	25.8	14.0	7.3	3.3	2.2
4-H club members	(Boys - 349,879	41.8	25.3	15.8	9.0	4.5	3.6
in 1932*.....	(Girls - 516,147	44.2	26.0	15.1	8.2	3.9	2.6
4-H club members	(Boys - 354,215	39.8	24.6	16.2	9.9	5.3	4.2
in 1933*.....	(Girls - 512,170	42.2	25.5	15.6	9.0	4.5	3.2
4-H club members	(Boys - 356,403	41.4	23.2	15.1	9.8	5.7	4.8
in 1934*.....	(Girls - 535,509	43.4	23.9	15.1	9.0	4.9	3.7

* Only those for whom length of membership was reported are included.

Relationship of Other Factors to Enrollment in 4-H club work

In connection with the general field studies of extension work in agriculture and home economics certain information of an economic and sociologic nature pertaining to the farm and home was obtained. An effort is made here to show what relationship such factors in the background of the boys and girls have to 4-H club enrollment.

Land tenure

Very nearly as many boys and girls of tenant farmers seemingly were reached by club work as those of owner-operators. The percentage of boys and girls 10 to 20 in the owner-operator group who were ever in club work was 26.4, and of those in the tenant group 21.6 (table 7). Out of the 5,062 farms with children of club age 36 percent of the owner-operators had been represented in club work compared with 32 percent of the tenant group. The proportion of farms in the owner and

tenant groups with boys and girls 10 to 20 years of age who had never been in club work was also about the same, 81 percent and 86 percent respectively. Although about one-third of all the farms with children of club age had been represented in club work, about four-fifths had children of club age who had never been in club work.

Table 7.-- Relationship of land tenure to 4-H club membership -
10,940 boys and girls 10 to 20 years of age; 16 areas

Land tenure	Farms with boys and girls 10 to 20	Percentage of boys and girls 10 to 20	Percentage of farms with boys and girls 10 to 20		Percentage of boys and girls 10 to 20 ever in club work
			Ever in club work	Never in club work	
Owner.....	3,536	68.2	36.0	81.0	26.4
Tenant.....	1,526	31.8	31.9	85.6	21.6

Size of farm

The size of the farm apparently is not an important factor in the probability of 4-H club enrollment. Only a slightly higher percentage of the boys and girls on the large farms than of those on the medium or small farms were club members (table 8). The greatest difference in any of the comparisons made under the size of farm factor is seen under the percentage of farms with club members in the small and large farm groups. The fact that the trend for the medium-sized groups is inconsistent with that for the extremes in size in the case of percentage of farms with boys and girls who were never in club work and percentage of boys and girls who were ever in club work seems to be further evidence that the size of the farm has no particular relationship to club enrollment.

Table 8.-- Relationship of size of farm to 4-H club membership -
10,712 boys and girls 10 to 20 years of age; 16 areas

Size of farm	Farms with boys and girls 10 to 20	Percentage of boys and girls 10 to 20	Percentage of farms with boys and girls 10 to 20		Percentage of boys and girls 10 to 20 ever in club work
			Ever in club work	Never in club work	
Small.....	1,453	27.0	31.9	83.1	23.6
Medium.....	1,775	35.7	32.5	83.9	22.8
Large.....	1,707	37.3	37.4	82.3	26.2

Education of parents

Education of parents seems to have a close relationship to 4-H club membership. Information obtained from 1,299 farms with 2,820 boys and girls between 10 and 20 years of age shows that 54 percent of the group of farms where both parents had received some college training were represented in 4-H club work as compared with 43 percent of the group where both parents had had only high-school training, and 33 percent of the group where both parents had attended common school only (table 9). About the same trend for the three groups was found in inverse ratio for the farms with boys and girls of club age who were never in club work. The ratio of boys and girls who were ever in club work was 4-3-2 for the both-college, both-high-school, and both-common-school groups, respectively. The bulk of the club problem, as far as the education of parents is concerned, is clearly with the three-fourths of the boys and girls whose parents received no formal education beyond the common school.

Table 9.-- Relationship of education of parents to 4-H club membership -
2,820 boys and girls 10 to 20 years of age; 6 areas.

Education of parents	Farms with boys and girls 10 to 20	Percent-age of boys and girls 10 to 20	Percentage of farms with boys and girls 10 to 20		Percentage of boys and girls 10 to 20 ever in club work
			Ever in club work	Never in club work	
Both college.....	22	1.6	54.5	68.2	43.5
One college, other less....	71	4.9	49.3	73.2	37.4
Both high school.....	84	5.7	42.8	72.6	33.8
One high school, other less..	187	13.6	44.3	74.3	35.9
Both common school.....	955	74.2	53.3	82.4	23.3

Membership in farm or home organizations

Sixty-two percent more of the boys and girls of club age whose parents were members of one or more farm or home organizations were in club work than was the case where the parents had never affiliated with any such organizations (table 10). The number of farms in the organization-member group represented in club work was also 48 percent higher than the nonmember group, although the difference in the percentage of farms with boys and girls of club age who were never in club work was not great for the member and nonmember groups. Eighty-one percent of the farms in the farm or home organization member group had children 10 to 20 years of age who had never been in club work contrasted with 88 percent of the nonmember group. Out of the 4,710 farms with children of club age at the time of the interview, 57 percent had held membership in some farm or home organization, whereas only 33 percent had been represented in club work.

Table 10.-- Relationship of membership in farm or home organizations to 4-H club membership - 10,263 boys and girls 10 to 20 years of age; 15 areas

Item	Farms with boys and girls 10 to 20	Percentage of boys and girls 10 to 20	Percentage of farms with boys and girls 10 to 20		Percentage of boys and girls 10 to 20 ever in club work
			Ever in club work	Never in club work	
Membership in farm or home organizations.....	2,681	56.5	38.0	81.4	27.8
No membership in farm or home organizations.....	2,029	43.5	25.6	87.5	17.1

Membership in farm or home bureau

Twenty-six percent of the boys and girls whose parents were members of the farm or home bureau had been reached by club work compared with 13 percent of those whose parents had not been members of either of these organizations. The ratio of farm homes with boys and girls of club age in the farm- or home-bureau membership and the nonfarm- or home-bureau membership groups which had been represented in club work was also about 2 to 1. Eighty-two percent of the farm- or home-bureau members had some boys and girls of club age who had never been enrolled in club work, compared with 91 percent of the nonfarm- or home-bureau members. A total of 1,843 farm homes with boys and girls from 10 to 20 years of age were visited in five areas where the farm and home bureaus were the official organizations through which extension work was conducted. It was found that 62 percent of these farms had been affiliated with either the farm or home bureau whereas only 29 percent had been represented in 4-H club work.

Table 11.-- Relationship of membership in farm or home bureau to membership in 4-H club work - 3,733 boys and girls 10 to 20 years of age; 5 areas

Item	Farms with boys and girls 10 to 20	Percentage of boys and girls 10 to 20	Percentage of farms with boys and girls 10 to 20		Percentage of boys and girls 10 to 20 ever in club work
			Ever in club work	Never in club work	
Membership in farm or home bureau.....	1148	62.3	34.8	82.1	26.0
No membership in farm or home bureau.....	695	37.7	18.8	90.8	13.0

Reasons for Discontinuing 4-H Membership and Age When Discontinued

No predominating reason was given by former 4-H club members for the discontinuance of club membership. The large variety of answers received to this question are summarized in table 12, together with the age at which the membership was withdrawn. Care was taken not to obscure the meaning of this information for the sake of conciseness. The reasons which seem to be of a kindred nature are listed together. This information was obtained from 844 former club members in 13 areas.

That there was no club available was the reason given more often than any other by both boys and girls for not continuing club work. A small number also discontinued because there was no leader. These two reasons together were reported by 11 percent of the boys and 16 percent of the girls.

Ten percent of the boys and 6 percent of the girls left club work because they thought they were too old or had outgrown the work. The average age at the time of withdrawal for this reason was 18 years for both boys and girls. An additional 4 percent of the boys and 2 percent of the girls discontinued because they had finished their projects.

About 9 percent each of the boys and girls failed to continue their club work because of lack of interest. The average age in both cases was 14 years. A small percentage of the boys and girls disliked the work too much to continue it. Indifference or opposition to the work on the part of parents was negligible.

Lack of time, and farm and home duties were reasons given by slightly more than 7 percent each of the boys and girls. A fairly good distribution in number of members reporting these reasons is seen throughout the range of ages; however, the average is at about 14.

Removal of the family to a new community terminated the club work of 5 percent of the boys and 11 percent of the girls.

More than twice as many girls went away to school and left club work for that reason than was true of the boys. A small additional number of members gave up club work when they entered high school or found that club work interfered with their school work or was a duplication of it. Discontinuation of attendance at school terminated the club membership of 6 percent of the boys at an average age of 16. Nearly as many girls dropped out of club work for the same reason, but at a slightly earlier age.

Eight percent of the boys left club work to go to work at an average age of 16. Four percent of the girls left club work to go to work at an average age of 17.6 years.

Table 12.--Reasons given by former 4-H club members for discontinuing their membership and age at which membership was discontinued - 476 boys, 368 girls; 13 areas

Reason	Boys and girls		Num-ber of areas	Age at which membership was discontinued and percentage of boys and girls in each group												Ave. age when dis-continued
	Number	Per-cent- age		Age when discontinued												
				Under 10	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
Club discon- tinued. No club	Boys.. 50	10.5	10	2.0	8.0	10.0	14.0	16.0	16.0	20.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	2.0		13.5
	Girls. 50	13.6	10	2.0	4.0	10.0	18.0	16.0	14.0	16.0	8.0	4.0	8.0			13.7
No leader.....	Boys.. 4	0.8	3		25.0					25.0		25.0		25.0		15.5
	Girls. 10	2.7	4	20.0	10.0			30.0	20.0		10.0		10.0			12.8
Too old, Out- grew work.....	Boys.. 47	9.9	9				2.1		4.3	8.5	12.8	14.9	25.5	6.4	4.3	17.7
	Girls. 24	6.5	10						4.2	4.2	12.5	25.0	12.5	4.2	8.3	18.1
Finished project.....	Boys.. 21	4.4	5	4.8	14.3	9.5	9.5	14.3	23.8		9.5			9.5	4.8	13.5
	Girls. 9	2.5	4	11.1	22.2		11.1	22.2			22.2			11.1		13.0
Lack of interest.....	Boys.. 45	9.5	9	4.4	2.2	6.7	20.0	13.3	15.6	11.1	6.7	11.1	6.7		2.2	13.9
	Girls. 33	9.0	9		3.0	9.1	18.2	18.2	18.2	9.1	9.1	9.1	6.1			13.8
Disliked the work.....	Boys.. 7	1.5	3				14.3	14.3	28.6	14.3	14.3		14.3			14.6
	Girls. 12	3.3	6	8.3			8.3	25.0	16.7	16.7	8.3	16.7				13.8
Parents indif- ferent, opposed	Boys.. 6	1.3	3		16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7						12.5
	Girls															
Lack of time: home duties..	Boys.. 36	7.6	7		2.8	2.8	13.9	11.1	16.7	16.7	19.4	11.1	2.8	2.3		14.6
	Girls. 27	7.3	7		7.4	14.8	3.7	11.1	14.8	14.8	18.5	7.4	3.7	3.7		14.1
Too much work..	Boys.. 4	0.8	3		50.0	25.0			25.0							11.2
	Girls. 3	0.8	2	33.3	33.3			33.3								9.7
Family moved..	Boys.. 22	4.6	7	4.5	9.1		18.2	18.2	22.7	9.1	9.1		4.5	4.5		13.5
	Girls. 42	11.4	9	4.8	7.1	11.9	7.1	9.5	19.0	19.0	11.9	2.4	4.8	2.4		13.7

Table 12.--Reasons given by former 4-H club members for discontinuing their membership and age at which membership was discontinued: 476 boys, 368 girls; 13 areas (continued)

Reason	Boys and Girls		Number of areas	Age at which membership was discontinued and percentage of boys and girls in each group													Ave. age when discontinued:
	Number	Per-cent-age		Age when discontinued													
				Under 10	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	Over 20	
Went away to school	Boys...21	4.4	6				4.8	19.0	19.0	9.5	23.8	14.3		4.8			15.2
	Girls...37	10.1	7	2.7			10.8	16.2	27.0	13.5	10.8	8.1	8.1	2.7			14.6
Duplicated or interfered with school, In H.S., Changed schools	Boys...5	1.1	2				28.6	28.6		20.0	60.0	20.0					15.0
	Girls...7	1.9	5							42.9							13.6
Out of school	Boys...28	5.9	6	3.6			7.1	3.6	10.7	17.9	28.6	10.7	7.1	7.1		3.6	15.6
	Girls...17	4.6	3		5.9			23.5	17.6	11.8	17.6	17.6			5.9		14.9
Dissatisfied with leader	Boys...4	0.8	2				50.0		25.0	25.0							13.2
	Girls...5	1.4	4	20.0	20.0		20.0		20.0			20.0					12.8
Agent indifferent	Boys...12	2.5	1	8.3	8.3		8.3	8.3	33.3	16.7	8.3		8.3				13.6
	Girls...1	0.3	1							100							16.0
Not invited	Boys...7	1.5	3	14.3	14.3			14.3		28.6	14.3	14.3					13.6
	Girls...3	0.8	2					33.3	33.3			33.3					14.7
Dissatisfaction concerning ex-hibits and prizes	Boys...9	1.9	5				11.1	11.1	11.1	11.1	22.2	11.1	11.1			11.1	16.6
	Girls...6	1.6	3				33.3		33.3					16.7		16.7	16.0
Went to work	Boys...40	8.4	8					7.1	22.5	15.0	17.5	25.0	10.0	7.5	2.5		16.2
	Girls...14	3.8	6						14.3	7.1	7.1	21.4	14.3	7.1	7.1	14.3	17.6

Not profitable: Could not afford	Boys...11 Girls... 3	2.3 0.8	5	33.3		9.1 33.3	18.2	9.1	9.1	36.4	18.2						15.1 10.7
Unable to get stock or material	Boys...19 Girls	4.0	6	10.5		5.3 10.5	26.3	15.8	10.5	10.5	5.3	5.3					13.5
Project un- successful.....	Boys...14 Girls.. 2	2.9 0.5	6				21.4	21.4 100	14.3	14.3	14.3	14.3					15.2 14.0
Stock or crop died.....	Boys...15 Girls.. 3	3.2 0.8	7	13.3		6.7 33.3	13.3 33.3	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	13.3					13.3 13.7
Married.....	Boys... 9 Gils..32	1.9 8.7	4					22.2 3.1	11.1 25.0	11.1 18.8	44.4 18.8	11.1 12.5	6.2				16.2 17.0
Lack of trans- portation.....	Boys.. 11 Girls. 14	2.3 3.8	6	18.2		9.1 35.7	27.3 7.1	18.2	27.3	7.1	7.1	14.3					12.8 13.4
Ill health.....	Boys.. 2 Girls. 11	0.4 3.0	2	9.1		50.0 50.0	18.2	9.1	36.4								10.5 13.3
Member died.....	Boys.. 4 Girls. 1	0.8 0.5	3				25.0		25.0 100	50.0							14.8 15.0
Miscellaneous.....	Boys.. 23 Girls. 2	4.8 0.5	7	4.3		4.3 50.0	17.4 50.0	21.7	13.0	13.0	8.7						13.6 12.0
Grand total	Boys..476 Girls.368	100 100	13 13	3.2 2.7	5.8 4.1	4.8 7.6	9.2 9.2	11.3 13.6	16.3 14.4	13.9 13.6	9.2 9.5	7.8 6.2	3.6 3.0	2.9 3.3	0.8 1.9		14.7 14.5

Only 2 percent of the boys discontinued club work because they found it unprofitable financially or because they could not afford it. The average age of those boys was 15 years. Four percent of the boys reported that they were unable to get the stock or material needed. These factors did not appreciably affect the enrollment of the girls.

Only 5.6 percent of the total number of former club members dropped out of club work for reasons which might be construed as objections of any kind to the leadership or policy of club work. Dissatisfaction with leader, indifference of agent, and dissatisfaction concerning exhibits and prizes were the principal reasons of this nature given. About 2 percent each of boys and girls discontinued their membership due to dissatisfaction concerning exhibits and prizes. The average age of those who discontinued because of dissatisfaction concerning exhibits and prizes was about 16 years.

Matrimony was the reason given for discontinuation of club membership by 2 percent of the boys and 9 percent of the girls.

The problem of transportation kept 3 percent of the total number of boys and girls from continuing their club work.

Six percent of the boys dropped out because of unfavorable complications in their projects or because the stock or crop actually died. Because of the different nature of projects in which girls enroll, this factor did not affect them to any great extent.

Ill health prevented the renewal of club memberships of 3 percent of the girls and less than one-half of 1 percent of the boys.

SUMMARY

Five and one-half million boys and girls have been members of 4-H clubs since the passage of the Smith-Lever Act in 1914.

The average age of both boys and girls enrolled in club work was found to be between 13 and 14 years.

One-fourth of all boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 20 on the farms visited were members of club work at the time the studies were made or had been members at some previous time. Of those at the ages of 12 to 17 inclusive, each age group totaled more than 25 percent of their number in club work at some time.

More girls entered club work at the age of 11 than at any other time. The highest enrollment for the boys occurred at the ages of 12, 13, and 14. The rate of enrollment was practically the same for each of the 3 years. Each succeeding year after 11 shows a decline in enrollment of girls and each succeeding year after 14 shows a corresponding decline in enrollment of boys. The average entrance age was 12.7 for the girls and 13.0 for the boys. About 40 percent each of the boys and girls in club work entered during the 3-year period from 12 to 14. Thirty-seven percent of the girls and 32 percent of the boys entered before 12 years of age and 23 percent of the girls and 28 percent of the boys entered after 14 years of age.

Club members who were enrolled at the earlier ages remained in the work longer than did those who were enrolled at the later ages. The boys who entered at 16 or under remained for an average of 1.9 years, whereas those who entered at 17 or over remained for 1.5 years. The girls who entered at 16 or under remained for an average of 2.0 years; those who entered at 17 or over remained for 1.7 years. The average length of membership was 1.9 years for both boys and girls. Slightly more than one-half of the former members were enrolled for 1 year only. About one-fourth were enrolled for 2 years only. Less than 10 percent of either the boys or girls remained in club work longer than 3 years.

Data from annual reports of extension workers indicate that boys and girls tend to remain in 4-H club work longer than formerly. The average length of membership of boys and girls who discontinued their membership increased from 2.1 years in 1931 to 2.4 years in 1934. The average length of membership for all those dropping out of club work during the 4-year period was 2.2 years.

Up to the age of 14 the rate of enrollments for the boys exceeded the rate of withdrawals. After that age the reverse was true in about the same proportion. The high point of withdrawals occurred at the ages of 15 and 16, with the high point of entrance at 14. For the girls the rate of enrollments exceeded the rate of withdrawals up to the age of 13. This turning point came about a year earlier for the girls than it did for the boys; however, the rate of decline in enrollments for the 3-year period following the peak was not so great as was true for the boys.

The factors of land tenure and size of farm do not seem to have an important bearing on club enrollment. The factors of education of parents and membership in farm and home organizations do, however, appear to have a close relationship to club enrollment.

No predominating reason for the discontinuance of club membership was found. That there was no club available or that there was no leader for the club constituted the reason given more often than any other for not continuing club work. Next in order in the number of times reported was that the members were too old, had outgrown the work, or had finished the project. Lack of interest and dislike for the work on the part of the club member was found to be the reason next in importance. Insufficient time and too many farm or home duties, removal of the family to a new community, absence from home to attend school, necessity for remunerative employment, objection to leadership or policy of the club organization, discontinuation of attendance at school, and matrimony, were the other reasons given most frequently for termination of club membership.



